

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03  
FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /113 W  
-----027949 051753Z /72

R 050805Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0076

INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR NICK MURPHY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, EWWT, PINT, AO, XJ, CV

SUBJECT: MEETING OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICA-  
TIONS OF FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES

BEGIN SUMMARY. MINISTERS OF TRANSPORTATION OF ANGOLA, CAPE  
VERDE, GUINEA BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE, SAO TOME E PRINCIPE MET  
APRIL 30 - MAY 4 IN MINDELO. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO  
COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE WAS UNUSUALLY HEAVY. DURING MEETING  
ANGOLA REP. WHO PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN CONFERENCE, PUSHED FOR  
CREATION OF REGIONAL AIRLINES SERVICING FORMER PORTUGUESE  
COLONIES. TANGIBLE RESULTS OF CONFERENCE ARE FEW. END  
SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO HAS GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE TO  
MEETING IN MINDELO OF TRANSPORTATION MINISTERS OF FORMER  
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CONCP COUNTRIES. "VOZ DI POVO" HAS CARRIED TWO FRONT-PAGE  
ARTICLES WITH COMPLETE WRAPUP ON MEETING EXPECTED IN NEXT  
ISSUE. LOCAL RADIO HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO  
SESSION WITH SEVERAL ON-THE-SPOT REPORTS FROM SAO VICENTE.

2. PRIME MINISTER PEDRO PIRES INAUGURATED MEETING AND  
ATTENDED MORE IMPORTANT SESSIONS. CAPE VERDE WAS REPRESENTED

BY MINISTER HERCULANO VIEIRA AND OMAR LIMA OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, AIR AND COMMUNICATION. ARLINDO SANTOS HEADED THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION.

3. SOURCES HERE INDICATED ANGOLA PUSHED DURING MEETINGS FOR CREATION OF REGIONAL AIRLINES FOR FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES. ANGOLA REP INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO INCORPORATE ENTIRE PRESENT ANGOLAN AIRFLEET INTO AIRLINE WITH QUID PRO QUO BEING LOCATION-ING OF AIRLINE'S MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FACILITIES IN LUANDA. CAPE VERDE REP INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER IDEA BUT STATED HE HAD SOME SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROPOSAL.

4. ON AN ASIDE DURING CONFERENCE ANGOLAN REP ASKED OFFICIALLY FOR LOAN OF TWO (2) CAPE VERDE VESSELS TO ANGOLA MERCHANT MARINE. ONE OF THESE VESSELS WOULD BE THE INDEPENDENCIA WHICH IS CURRENTLY OPERATING BETWEEN MINDELO AND ANGOLA. ANGOLAN REP ALSO REAFFIRMED ANGOLAN INTEREST IN LOAN OF CAPE VERDEAN SEAMEN AND OFFICERS FOR ANGOLA MERCHANT MARINE. AS OF YET UNCONFIRMED REPORT ALSO INDICATES THAT ANGOLAN AND CAPE VERDEAN REPS DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF OPERATION IN ANGOLAN WATERS OF TUNA BOAT WHICH CAPE VERDE IS PLANNING TO LEASE/PURCHASE FROM STARKIST. COMMENT: CAPE VERDEAN OFFICIALS ARE KNOWN TO BE WARY OF ALLOWING RUSSIAN FISHING FLEET TO OPERATE IN THEIR WATERS AND MAY WELL CONSIDER THE JOINT OPERATION OF THIS VESSEL AS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO RUSSIAN FISHING FLEET OPERATIONS OFF BISSAU AND ANGOLA. END COMMENT.  
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5. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HERCULANO VIEIRA WAS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELICITING SUPPORT FROM OTHER FORMER CONCP MEMBERS FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL REPAIR FACILITIES IN MINDELO. CAPE VERDEAN OFFICIALS SEEM PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF ANY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH A VENTURE AND APPARENTLY HOPE THAT A POSITIVE INDICATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE FORMER CONCP COUNTRIES MIGHT GIVE THE PROJECT NEW LIFE. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM AMONG CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS FOR THIS PROJECT.

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PARIS FOR NICK MURPHY

6. ANGOLA MINISTER SANTOS HAD LEADING ROLE DURING CONFERENCE. WHILE SANTOS HOPED TO OBTAIN TANGIBLE RESULTS FROM CONFERENCE, IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT SEES THIS CONFERENCE AS ONE OF THE INTERMEDIATE STEPS TOWARDS REVITALIZING THE CONCP STRUCTURE WITH ANGOLA (AS LUANDA APPARENTLY HOPES) TAKING A LEADING ROLE IN NEW BLOC.

7. CONFERENCE PROVIDED FOR UNDER TERMS OF PROTOCOL SIGNED BY CAPE VERDE AND ANGOLA ON 15 DECEMBER 1976 DURING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER PEDRO PIRES TO ANGOLA. CAPE VERDE HAS ALSO SIGNED SIMILAR PROTOCOLS WITH GOM AND GOSTP. DURING RECENT VISIT OF ANGOLA PRIME MINISTER LOPO DO NASCIMENTO TO CAPE VERDE, THE LATTER SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR CONVENING OF CONFERENCE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. CONFERENCE WAS ACTUALLY DUE TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY. WE UNDERSTAND BOTH GOCV AND GGOB WERE AT LEAST INITIALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC TO HOLD  
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CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME BUT UNDER PRESSURE FROM LUANDA AGREED TO DO SO.

8. EMBASSY HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT DURING RECENT VISIT OF ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER (PRAIA A-4) GOCV AND GOA SIGNED CONFIDENTIAL PROTOCOL RELATING TO USE OF UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CAPE VERDEAN WORKERS IN ANGOLA, MOST LIKELY IN THE COFFEE REGION OF CARMONA. PROTOCOL AUTHORIZES RECRUITMENT IN CAPE VERDE OF WORKERS THROUGH A MECHANISM NOT YET DEFINED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. WORKERS WOULD BE GUARANTEED REMITTANCE OF AN UNKNOWN PORTION

OF WAGES EARNED TO CAPE VERDE. COMMENT: WE FRANKLY DOUBT THAT MANY CAPE VERDEANS WILL WANT TO GO OFF TO ANGOLA AT THIS TIME. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT GOCV WOULD AGREE TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT THOUGH GOA IN MOST BARGAINING SITUATIONS DOES HAVE A TRUMP CARD, I.E. THE MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND (30,000) CAPE VERDEANS STILL IN ANGOLA. THIS AGREEMENT IS CLEARLY NOT A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE ISLANDS; THE PUBLIC REACTION TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD MOST LIKELY BE RATHER CIRITICAL AS THE MEMORIES OF RECENT HAPPENINGS IN ANGOLA ARE STILL VIVID TO MANY CAPE VERDEANS, INCLUDING THOUSANDS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO CAPE VERDE BRINGING LITTLE EXCEPT THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS.  
MCGOWAN

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## Message Attributes

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